**Week 2 Assignment, Part 2: Code of Ethics Mind Walk Through Public Schools, Pre-K-16**

Brainstorm a typical day or week in the life of a public school professional working at any grade level – dealing with students, other staff, parents, and community members. Using your experiences, including interviews and expertise, think of your entire daily or weekly encounters with ethical conflicts; see the TAC Chapter 247 Educators’ Code of Ethics resource. Then do the following:

Review each of the ethical standards under each of the three main areas of Chapter 247 of the TAC, and identify at least one ethical conflict in each of the three areas of the Code:

Overall professional ethical conduct, practices and performance that may result in a complaint:

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| 1 G. Standard 1.7. The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other applicable state and federal laws.  2 C. Standard 2.3. The educator shall adhere to written local school board policies and state and federal laws regarding the hiring, evaluation, and dismissal of personnel.  3 E. Standard 3.5. The educator shall not engage in physical mistreatment of a student. |

Unethical conduct toward professional colleagues:

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| 1 B. Standard 1.2. The educator shall not knowingly misappropriate, divert, or use monies, personnel, property, or equipment committed to his or her charge for personal gain or advantage.  2 B. Standard 2.2. The educator shall not harm others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.  3 C. Standard 3.3. The educator shall not deliberately or knowingly misrepresent facts regarding a student. |

Unethical conduct toward students:

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| 1 E.Standard 1.5. The educator shall neither accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage. This standard shall not restrict the acceptance of gifts or tokens offered and accepted openly from students, parents, or other persons or organizations in recognition or appreciation of service.]  2 F. Standard 2.6. The educator shall not use coercive means or promise of special treatment in order to influence professional decisions or colleagues.  3 D. Standard 3.4. The educator shall not exclude a student from participation in a program, deny benefits to a student, or grant an advantage to a student on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, national origin, religion, or family status. |

Describe the possible consequences of personnel engaging in any of the above ethical conflicts.

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| One of the conflicts listed above that I find to be the most interesting is the acceptance of gifts from students or parents. I work in a very affluent area and so around the holidays, students and parents often come with gifts for teachers. The district has put into place a protection in the form of a rule of fifty dollars or less for a gift for a teacher. If a student presents a teacher with a gift that is obviously worth more than fifty U.S. dollars, we are not to accept. I think this rule is in place to protect the teachers. If we were to accept a large gift, the teacher might feel obligated to pay special attention to the student and their family and that would be a form of discrimination. For principals, this is even more important and we all must be very careful not to make an error in this category. |

Using one of the above conflicts as an example, describe how you would respond to the conflict as a campus principal.

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| Standard 1.7 states that: “The educator shall comply with state regulations, written local school board policies, and other applicable state and federal laws.” As principals we have to be very sure that we are making sure all educators are following this standard or the ramifications for school and educator alike could be very significant. If I were the principal and one of my staff violated this standard, I would begin by making the person aware of their violation and recommending that the school board of trustees and superintendant review the issue and make a decision based on TEA and SBEC precedent. |